

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Previously Presented) A method for the post-treatment of a photovoltaic cell, the photovoltaic cell comprising a photoactive layer and two metal electrodes, the photoactive layer comprising a conjugated polymer component and a fullerene component, and the two metal electrodes provided on either side of the photoactive layer, the method comprising:

subjecting the photovoltaic cell to heat treatment above a glass transition temperature of the conjugated polymer for a predetermined treatment time, the heat treatment of the photovoltaic cell being carried out for at least a portion of the treatment time under the influence of an electric field induced by a field voltage applied to the electrodes of the photovoltaic cell and exceeding a no-load voltage thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the electric field is induced via a field voltage that exceeds the no-load voltage of the photovoltaic cell by at least 1 V.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the field voltage is between 2.5 and 3 V.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for between 2 and 8 min to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for between 2 minutes and 8 minutes to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for of between 2 minutes and 8 minutes to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for between 4 minutes and ~~[[4]]~~ 5 minutes to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for between 4 minutes and 5 minutes to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the photovoltaic cell is subjected for between 4 minutes and 5 minutes to heat treatment under the influence of an electric field.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a photovoltaic cell, the method comprising:

heating the photovoltaic cell for a period of time; and  
simultaneously subjecting the photovoltaic cell to an electric field,  
wherein the photovoltaic cell comprises:

a first electrode;

a second electrode; and

a photoactive layer between the first and second electrodes, the photoactive layer comprising an electron donor and an electron acceptor.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~44~~ 10, wherein the photovoltaic cell is heated to above a glass transition temperature of the electron donor.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the electric field is formed by applying a field voltage to the first and second electrodes.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the electric field exceeds a no-load voltage of the photovoltaic cell.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the electric field exceeds the no-load voltage by at least 1V.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the electric field is between 2.5V and 3V.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the period of time is between 2 minutes and 8 minutes.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the period of time is between 4 minutes and 5 minutes.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a photovoltaic cell, the method comprising:

heating the photovoltaic cell for between 2 and 8 minutes; and

simultaneously subjecting the photovoltaic cell to an electric field,

wherein the photovoltaic cell comprises:

a first electrode;

a second electrode; and

a photoactive layer between the first and second electrodes, the photoactive layer comprising an electron donor;

the photoactive layer is heated to above a glass transition temperature of the electron donor;

the electric field is formed by applying a field voltage to the first and second electrodes;  
and

the electric field exceeds a no-load voltage of the photovoltaic cell.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the photoactive layer comprises an electron donor and an electron acceptor.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the electric field exceeds the no-load voltage by at least 1V.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the photovoltaic cell is heated for between 4 minutes and 5 minutes.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a photovoltaic cell, the method comprising:

heating the photovoltaic cell for a period of time; and  
simultaneously injecting charge carriers into the photovoltaic cell,  
wherein the photovoltaic cell comprises:

a first electrode;

a second electrode; and

a photoactive layer between the first and second electrodes, the photoactive layer comprising an electron donor;

the photoactive layer is heated to above a glass transition temperature of the electron donor; and

the charge carriers are injected into the photovoltaic cell via at least one electrode selected from the group consisting of the first electrode and the second electrode.